

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service  
Caribou-Targhee National Forest  
1405 Hollipark Drive  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: October 20, 2008  
08-57

Contact: **Patty Kraayenbrink**  
Phone: **208-313-7740**

## **BLIND SPRINGS PRESCRIBED FIRE PROJECT UPDATE**

**POCATELLO, ID:** The Westside Ranger District plans to complete a portion of the Blind Springs Prescribed Fire project today, October 20, 2008. The project is located in Bannock County, 7 miles South of Pocatello Idaho. The project consists of 3,700 acres located in the Mink Creek Drainage. Previous treatment on this project included mechanical preparation and approximately 1,000 acres were burned in the spring of 2008. Crews black-lined approximately 100-acres of the project on Friday, October 17, 2008 and will attempt to treat the remaining 900-acres today. Ignition is planned for 11:30 am.

The objectives for this action include:

- Reduce the potential for loss of life, property, and natural resources to wildfires and enhance firefighter safety in the project area.
- Reduce wildfire suppression costs.
- Protect the long-term scenic quality of the area.
- Provide education and incentives for cooperative hazardous fuel management projects on private, county, state, and federal lands in the Pocatello (WUI) area.
- Meet natural resource goals and objectives described in the National Fire Plan, the Caribou RFP (2003), the GIFF Charter (1987, as revised).

This is a planned low intensity mosaic burn. This burn is designed to break up the fuel continuity of the mountain brush, reduce the canopy cover of the juniper by 50%, reduce conifer encroachment in aspen stands, and create mosaic openings over the project area. The project will be implemented in phases over the course of several years beginning in the spring of 2008

The project area is defined as East of the Valve House Trail, West of the Lead Draw Trail, South of the East Fork of Mink and Mink Creek intersection and North of the “T” shaped private property above the Nordic center.

If weather conditions do not allow for ignition, the Forest Service will continue to monitor for an extended clear weather pattern that will meet the combination of fuel moisture, temperature, wind, and smoke dispersal conditions necessary for a successful prescribed burn. The project is highly dependent on the weather and may be delayed or extended as weather dictates.

During the prescribed fire the Valve House Trail and East Fork of Mink Creek Nordic Center will be closed. Smoke may be visible from Pocatello and throughout Mink Creek.

For more information, contact the Westside Ranger District office at 208-236-7500.

-USFS-